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NSC Review Completed.

25 November 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center
Director of Global Issues

FROM: [redacted] 25X1
Chief, Geography Division, OGI

SUBJECT: Senior Interdepartmental Group (SIG) Meeting on
the Law of the Sea (LOS) [redacted] 25X1

1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum summarizes for your information the results of the SIG meeting chaired by James L. Buckley, Under secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, on 24 November at the Department of State. [redacted] 25X1

2. Background: The meeting was convened to review proposed changes to the LOS Memorandum for the President, which was prepared by an Interdepartmental Group on Law of the Sea. The Memorandum presents the conclusions of an Interagency LOS Policy Review and policy options for future US negotiations at the Third United Nations Conference on LOS, which reconvenes in March 1982. [redacted] 25X1

3. Results of the SIG Meeting: In regards to the Interior Department's proposed wording changes to the Memorandum, Mr. Perry Pendley stated that his Department thinks that the Memorandum too optimistically presents the US's ability to improve the deepsea mining provisions of the LOS draft convention. He suggested more realistic wording and specific negotiating objectives in order to bring to an end "continual talking, but no results." Ambassador James L. Malone, Special Representative of the President to the LOS Conference, defended the Memorandum, citing the delicate negotiating situation and the need for cautious diplomacy if we are to achieve our objectives. He emphasized that an initial policy decision as to what should be the general US direction in these negotiations is essential at this time. If Option 2 (to continue the negotiations) is chosen, operational language with new provisions and tactics will then be formulated. There was little support for Interior's overall position and only some limited wording changes were agreed to. [redacted] 25X1

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Treasury Department's proposal to expand the interdepartmental process for reviewing future US LOS positions and treaty amendments was rejected. Accepted instead was a proposal to handle these matters in the NSC-SIG structure only, and to set a 1 February 1982 deadline for sending proposed negotiating instructions to the President. This would permit adequate time for intersessional meetings and the development of a new negotiating strategy for the March session of the LOS Conference.

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MEETING INFORMATION

23 November 1981
ES/MI # 65

~~HR~~
RL
(Copied to Hans)

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : Meetings

Type of Meeting : SIG
Date : Tuesday, 24 November
Time : 3:00-4:30
Place : Room 1107, Department of State
Chaired By : Under Secretary James Buckley
Principal Only? : Principals plus one
Subject/Agenda : Law of the Sea

When to Expect Papers: Rec'd 1000 23 November 1981

Time Info Received : Rec'd 1005 23 November 1981 from Sheila Lopez

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